

Zebra Mussels Discovered at Lake Mead

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Live zebra mussels were recently found (1/6/07) in Lake Mead, although the extent of the infestation has not yet been determined. These organisms are most often transported between water bodies by recreational boaters, and it is very likely that zebra mussels will be (or already have been) transported into California. Zebra mussels have negative impacts on water quality, conveyance, storage, treatment, and ecosystem integrity; the estimated management costs for the State Water Project would be \$40 million per year if mussels become established throughout the Central Valley. California State Agencies are currently assessing the situation and evaluating measures to prevent, or at least delay, the introduction of zebra mussels into our lakes and rivers.

For the full story on the sighting in Lake Mead, please visit the 100th Meridian Website at <http://100thmeridian.org/>.

Taken from the 100th Meridian Website:



This is an artificial substrate sampler used to detect the presence of zebra mussels. It is essentially a short section of PVC pipe with a rope tied to it. A live zebra mussel can be seen near the absolute middle of the image (on the rope). Wen Baldwin took this photo at Las Vegas Boat Harbor.



Portland samplers are often stuffed with bridle veil (or some other mesh material) to help catch free-floating zebra mussel larvae that subsequently settle out of the water, attach and grow to adult size. You can see a young adult zebra mussel in the absolute middle of this image. Wen Baldwin took this photograph at Las Vegas Boat Harbor.